

Helena Jambor

Life Science Figures

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Life science figure design

Visual evidences are key for the scientific discourse in the life sciences. Yet, image preparation, molecular graphs and representation of statistical data is not part of the scientific curriculum.

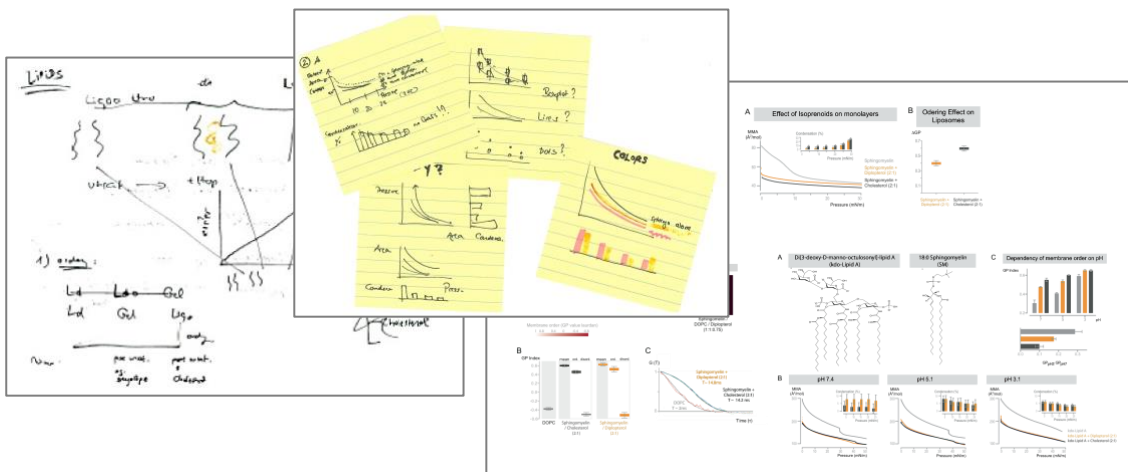
In this one-day workshop, participants learn to understand and create clear scientific figures. We will discuss for example:

- What data needs a figure
- How to choose chart types
- How not to lie - truthful data presentation?
- How to increase the legibility by considering graphic design principles

We will discuss explorative and explanatory data visualizations, and also discuss how to adapt figures for posters, slides and publications and extensively discuss examples. The course includes lectures, exercises in small groups and discussion of individual data visualization challenges from the members of the group.

The course is be a general training in scientific visual communication and data presentation.

From sketch to publication – the process of creating scientific data visualizations



contact details

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Example schedule for a 2-day course

We will have eight lecture blocks each followed by exercises that allow participants to apply their new knowledge to example cases. The exercises are a mix of group work and individual problem sets. Ideally, provided the class has such examples, we will have a “Visual session” where we look and discuss figures sets together. The number of participants is currently limited to 12. For details please enquire.

Day 1

9:00 Welcome, **From raw data and numbers to figures**

- Exploratory versus explanatory data visualization
- Which display type to choose for what kind of data
- Exercise: too little data or too much data – solutions for a figure

11:00 – 13:00 **Image data**

- Choosing an image, picture detail and magnification
- Image Data labels
- Exercise: Making images readable

14:00 – 15:30 **Graphs and Charts**

- Categorical, Relationship, Time course data
- Statistical data
- Exercise: Choosing a chart type

15:45 – 17:00 **Text in figures**

- Text arrangements, typography
- Tables
- Exercise: Figure legends, titles and labels.

Day 2

9:00 – 10:30 **Color in figures**

- The do’s and don’ts of color
- Color for qualitative versus quantitative data
- Exercises: choosing a color scheme

10:50 – 12:20 **Layout of figures and figure sets**

- Gestalt principles
- Focus the attention
- Exercises: Use your space!

13:20 – 16:00 Focus the attention & Decluttering

- Exercises: de-cluttering of figures
- Working on examples from the class.

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